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TAGS: ASEC EAID OTRA BB XL

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO S. KEN YAMASHITA TO TRAVEL TO BARBADOS

REF: SECSTATE 144001

¶1. Embassy Bridgetown grants country clearance to Mr. S. Ken Yamashita, Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS to travel to Barbados on or about September 24-28, 2006 to participate in the 2006 Chiefs of Mission HIV/AIDS Conference.

¶2. Control officer is Martina Strong at Embassy Bridgetown Tel: 1-246-436-4950, ext. 2440, or Fax: 1-246-431-0384. email: StrongMA@state.gov. For 24-hour contact please contact Post One at Embassy extension 2210.

¶3. Airport assistance will be provided upon arrival.

¶4. Entry/departure requirements: Mission policy is that all USG travelers to the region be in possession of a valid passport. Visas are not required for short visits. Visitors are granted up to 28 days upon entry, which can be extended through the Barbados immigration Department for up to six months. Barbados has a departure tax for Barbados \$25.00 BDS or \$13.00 USD.

¶5. The following general information pertains to transportation, security and health considerations in the Eastern Caribbean:

#### Security

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended especially at night. Be vigilant when using public telephones or ATM facilities near roadsides or quiet areas. As in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel burglaries are not uncommon, and all valuables should be locked in room safes.

#### Health Information

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Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent the major health threat is dengue fever, transmitted by mosquito. Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is also a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e. tetanus, diphtheria, and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

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